

A Celebration Service Of Triumph
For The Late

Bishop Ithiel C. Clemmons

General Board Member
Jurisdictional Prelate
Church Of God In Christ, Eastern New York
Pastor, First Church Of God In Christ



1921



1999

Service

Thursday, January 14, 1999 – Seven O'clock In The Evening

First Church Of God In Christ

221 Kingston Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11213

Superintendent James Gaylord, Officiant



1921 - 1999

Bishop Ithiel C. Clemmons

General Board Member
Jurisdictional Prelate
Church Of God In Christ, Eastern New York
Pastor, First Church Of God In Christ



Obituary

The Broken Vessel The Abiding Treasure

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

II Corinthians 4:7

Bishop Ithiel Conrad Clemmons

Seldom in human history does a man or woman rise to the pinnacle of achievement in so many areas of life as did Bishop Ithiel Conrad Clemmons. The legacy left by his life represents an **abiding treasure**.

The earthen vessel that housed his life began with his birth, December 2, 1921, as the third of seven children (the two eldest died in childhood), the offspring of Bishop Frank & Pauline Clemmons, in Washington, North Carolina. **The vessel** would be **irreparably broken** with his death, Saturday, January 9, 1999.

In the 77 years between his birth and his death, Bishop Ithiel Clemmons **took in** to himself not with selfish motivation, but in order to **pour out** to others. He excelled in both and was a model of focus and determination to others.

In his preparation for life and ministry, Bishop Clemmons "**took in**" in a number of ways:

♦ Educationally:

Master of Arts in Education; City College of New York – 1952
Master of Divinity: Union Theological Seminary, N.Y.C. – 1956
D. Min.; New York Theological Seminary
Doctor of Divinity: Interdenominational Theological Center – 1991

♦ Personally:

He availed himself of many opportunities to hone his skills and improve his talents in order to make his life more productive and effective.

In the **relationships** that enriched his life. He was first married in 1953 to Alyce Wilmer Thompson who died, January 1968, leaving three beautiful daughters to be raised: Pamela Marie, Constance Pauline and Debra Ann. Bishop did some serious praying that God would fill this relational void in his life and that of his three young girls. God honored his faithfulness and answered his prayers. In June, 1969 God gifted him with the former Clara Cantrell of Harvey, Illinois. In addition to raising the three girls, all of whom have finished college, for almost 30 years she was Bishop Clemmons constant companion, partner and "soul mate". Bishop often referred to Sister Clara as "my best friend".

In Anointings and Consecrations for greater service:

- May, 1975 Bishop of the Armed Forces
- July, 1988 Installed Bishop of Eastern New York First Jurisdiction (following the death of Bishop F. D. Washington in December of 1987).
- November, 1991 elected to The General Board

♦ Spiritually:

At the age of 5 in Washington, N.C. little Ithiel was being called "the Preacher". He accepted Christ at an early age and committed himself to the church and its ministries. Bishop cherished the mentors along the way with whom he established lasting relationships and from whose wisdom, insight and love he drank so freely. Noted among them was Bishop C. H. Mason himself, our Founder. Not only did he talk many times with Bishop Mason, but was prayed for and anointed by him. On one occasion, in Baltimore, Bishop Mason put young Elder Clemmons up to preach in his stead. Of course, there were countless others too numerous to name who poured into him, including the late Bishops S. M. Crouch, O. M. Kelly, F. D. Washington, O. T. Jones, Senior and the present Bishop O. T. Jones, Jr.

Not only did Bishop take in educationally, personally and spiritually, he also poured out in service and ministry to others - his family, local congregations, "lost" men and women, the National and wider church and the world.

♦ Family:

Bishop poured out his love to his wife Clara and his three daughters, Pam, Connie and Debbie. They were loved by him. He made sure they knew it. He rejoiced in knowing they were all saved, in the church and had finished college.

◆ **Local Congregations:**

Bishop also poured out to the congregations he shepherded. Not only did he and his family sacrifice financially, always putting the needs of the church first, but like the Apostle Paul, was "Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus," proclaiming with him, "For all things are for your sakes."

- **Gethsemane COGIC**, Clairton, PA, 1955 – 1967. He enlarged the sanctuary and built an education wing.
- **First COGIC**, Brooklyn, NY, co – pastor 1966 to 1988 when he became the pastor. Through the vision of Bishop Frank Clemmons and continued through Bishop Ithiel Clemmons the 1500 seat Jewish Temple was acquired. It contained a full gymnasium, classrooms, banquet hall, three kitchens, marble foyers and much more.
- **Wells Memorial**, Greensboro, NC, 1975 to present. Under his leadership, 3 1/2 acres were purchased in University Center and COGIC Cathedral was built in 1985 at a cost of 1.2 million dollars.

◆ **The Lost Men & Women:**

The ministry of Bishop Ithiel Clemmons greatly impacted the lives of thousands around the country who came to know Jesus in the pardon of their sins. Highlighted are six men who were saved and are now pastoring churches and one who has become a Jurisdictional Prelate.

- Elder Richard Brown of Cleveland, OH
- Elder George Ford of Cleveland, OH
- Elder Louis Jacobs of Union Town, PA
- Elder Selby Jones of Clairton, PA
- Elder George East, who has loyally served Bishop Clemmons from his pastorate in Clairton to COGIC Cathedral. He is so loved by all the church family for his prayer and preaching ministry.
- Bishop James Foster, now the Prelate of Western PA.

◆ **The National Church:**

Out of a selfless vessel was poured time, energy and resources in the service of the church that he loved and the only church he knew. He served faithfully to the end.

- 1968 – 1992 National Prayer Leader
- 1978 – 1998 Women's Convention Morning Preacher
- 1986 Founded National Prayer Clinic
- Jurisdictional Prelate of Eastern NY First Jurisdiction with near 100 churches
- General Board Member
- Church Historian, Writer, Author

◆ **The Wider Church & The World:**

- Pentecostal Charismatic Churches of North America (PCCNA) - Past President and member of executive committee.
- North America renewal Service Committee – Member of Planning Committee
- Council of Churches of the City of New York
- Preaching missions to Europe, Africa and the Caribbean.
- Advisor to President Bill Clinton along with other clergy on matters of religious affairs.
- 1998 Bishop Clemmons along with his wife donated \$10,000 to A & T State University for an Endowment Fund in the name of Clara Cantrell Clemmons. A fund to which Religion and Education majors may apply.

It might be rightfully asked, how could so much be poured from one vessel? Some grit their teeth, keep a stiff upper lip and by the sheer force of their will serve their generation. Not so, Bishop Ithiel C. Clemmons. He recognized that the source of his strength lay not in himself but in the transcendent power of God that was made perfect in his weakness.

Bishop Ithiel Conrad Clemmons was loved by all whose life he touched. He will be missed by many. In particular, he leaves to rejoice in his memory: a devoted wife, Mother Clara Clemmons; three daughters, Pamela Rosborough, her husband Samuel, and their four children, Samona, Miriam, Jonathan and Timothy; Constance Benton, her husband, Tyrone and their son Joshua; and the youngest daughter, Debra Clemmons; two brothers, Maxwell P. Clemmons, Sr. and his two children, Maxwell, Jr. and Attorney Patience Clemmons; Dr. Joseph Clemmons, Sr., his wife, Fran Collier Clemmons and their two children, Joseph, Jr. and his wife, Kyla, and their children; Angela Clemmons Patrick and her husband Kevin, and their children; two children of the late James Clemmons, Renee and Maxine Clemmons; a brother in law, Cleveland Little; a sister-in-law, Mother Etta Cantrell; a niece, Thayer Baker, and James Carter who served Bishop as would a son. Rejoicing also in his memory are other nieces, cousins, his church families, friends and the household of faith.

The vessel may be broken, the treasure yet abides.

Lovingly Submitted
The Family

Order Of Service

(† Please Stand Where Indicated)

Organ Prelude

Opening Sentences Superintendent Gary Rhett
Officiant Superintendent James Gaylord

† Processional

Bishops, Special Assistants, Executive Board,
State Officials, Superintendents, Pastors, Elders and The Family

† Hymn Of Comfort "Amazing Grace"
The Historic First COGIC Choir & Congregation

† Scripture Reading
Old Testament Psalms 90
Superintendent Thomas E. Burns

New Testament I Corinthians 15:51-58
Superintendent T. J. Williams, Sr.

† Prayer Of Comfort Superintendent I. G. Bolden

† Choral Response "Hear Our Prayer O' Lord"

† Statement Of Faith Superintendent Robert L. Madison

The Statement Of Faith

We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible Word of God. We believe that there is One God, eternally existent in Three Persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

We believe in the Blessed Hope, which is the rapture of the Church of God, which is in Christ, at His return.

We believe that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance: faith in the precious Blood of Jesus Christ and being baptized in water. We believe that regeneration by the Holy Ghost is absolutely essential for personal salvation.

We believe that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing for the human body in answer to believing in prayer.

We believe that the baptism in the Holy Ghost, according to Acts 2:4 is given to believers who ask for it.

We believe in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, by Whose indwelling, the Christian is enabled to live a holy and separated life in this present world.

Amen.

Selection The Historic First C.O.G.I.C. Choir

Eulogistic Expressions (2 minutes)

Representing First Church Clergy Staff Elder Kenneth Gibson
Representing Mothers Board Mother Eunice Robinson
Representing Deacons Deacon Eugene Mountain
Representing Youth Department Sister Alquilla Bailey
Representing Auxiliaries Elder Lorenzo Jenkins
Representing The Family Constance Clemmons Benton

Order Of Service Cont'd

Solo Sister Ruth Nealy
Selection Jurisdictional Choir
Representing Women's Department Mother Creola L. Wallace

SUPERVISOR OF WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

Mother Francis Stukes, *Alternate*

Representing The Civic Community Superintendent Jerry West

Solo Evangelist Andrea Jackson

Representing Pastors & Elders Superintendent Willie G. Robinson

Representing The Executive Board Superintendent James Hunt

Representing The Board of Superintendents Superintendent Jacob Stukes

Representing The Fourth Saturday Conference Elder Moylan Jackson

Words of Exhortation Superintendent Ralph Jefferson

Selection Jurisdictional Choir

Representing The Board of Ordination Elder Fetson Leak

Representing The Board Of Finance Superintendent Henry Waller

Representing The Auxiliaries Elder Amos Kemper III

Solo "I Won't Complain" Sister Bernice Cole

Presentation Of Jurisdictional Bishops Superintendent James Gaylord

Bishop J. P. Lee

Bishop William J. Robinson

Bishop Clarence Harmon

Acknowledgment Of Resolutions

Cards & Telegrams Elder Allen T. Pulliam

Reading Of Obituary Elder Allen T. Pulliam

Inspirational Solo Superintendent Clarence Johnson

Introduction Of Eulogist's Bishop Norman Quick

Eulogist's & Closing Ceremonial Discourse *Bishop Frank C. White*

Bishop Clarence L. Sexton

Recessional

Benediction

Amazing Grace!

(One of **Bishop Ithiel C. Clemmons** favorite hymns)

For by grace are ye saved through faith...

Ephesians 2:8

John Newton
John P. Rees, stanza 5

American Melody
Carrell and Clayton's *Virginia Harmony*
Harmonized by Edwin O. Excell

1 A - maz-ing grace! How sweet the sound--That saved a wretch like me!
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re-lieved;
3 The Lord has prom-ised good to me, His word my hope se-cures;
4 Through man-y dan-gers, toils, and snares, I have al-read-y come;
5 When we've been there ten thou-sand years, Bright shin-ing as the sun,

1 I 'once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.
2 How pre-cious did that grace ap-pear The hour I first be-lieved!
3 He will my shield and por-tion be As long as life en-dures.
4 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
5 We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first be-gun.



I'm Free

Don't grieve for me now, I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took His hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work or play
Things left undone must stay that way
I've found peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with a remembered joy
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Ah, yes these things, I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow
My life's been full I've savored much
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief
Lift up your heart and share with me
God wanted me now, He set me free.

Lovingly Submitted

The Family

Pall Bearers:

Board of Superintendents

Floral Ladies:

District Missionaries

Acknowledgments:

The family of the late Bishop Ithiel C. Clemmons would like to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many prayers, expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to us during the passing of our loved one.

Please Continue To Keep Us In Your Prayers.

Entombment:

Pinelawn Memorial Park Cemetery

Pinelawn, New York

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted To:

Matthew Barrett — R. S. Saunders Funeral Home, Inc.

1204 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11225
217 Malcolm X Boulevard, Brooklyn, New York 11221
(718) 452-3621

THE NATIONAL HOMEGOING CELEBRATION

for

The Right Reverend Itthiel Conrad Clemmons

Church of God in Christ

Member, General Board

Prelate, New York Eastern First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction



Friday, the fifteenth of January

At Noon

*Nineteen Hundred, Ninety-nine
anno Domini*

First Church of God in Christ

221 Kingston Avenue

Brooklyn, New York

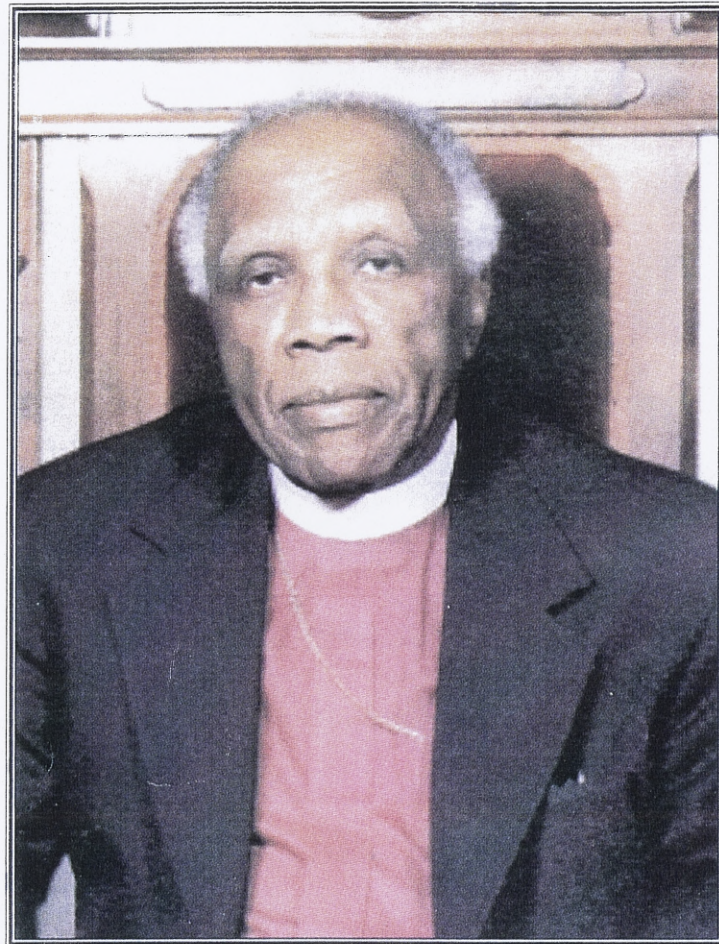
His Grace, THE MOST REVEREND CHANDLER DAVID OWENS

Church of God in Christ

Presiding Bishop

Chief Officiant

'Til We Meet Again...



BISHOP ITHIEL CONRAD CLEMMONS
1921-1999

I'M FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me,
I took his hand when I heard him call
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work or play,
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I found that place at the close of the day.

I my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy,
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things, I too, will miss.

Be not burdened with the times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow,
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief;
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me
God wanted me now, he set me free.

Author Unknown

ORDER OF HOMEGOING CELEBRATION

*Where indicated, please stand

QUIET MOMENTS *The Organist*

THE PROCESSIONAL

The Adjutant General
***THE PRESIDING BISHOP**
The Assistant Presiding Bishops
The General Board
The Bishops
The Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders
The Visiting Clergy
The Family

The Sealing of the Bier

THE CALL TO WORSHIP *The Bishop*

***THE HYMN OF COMFORT** *The Choir and Congregation*
"Just A Little While"

***THE INVOCATION** *The Bishop*

THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE - Isaiah 40:28-31

THE CHORAL RESPONSE *The Choir*
"And In Jesus, I'm Safe Evermore"

THE NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE - Revelation 21:1-7

***THE STATEMENT OF FAITH** *The Bishop*

We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible written Word of God.
We believe that there is one God eternally existent in three persons: God the Father,
God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
We believe in the Blessed Hope, which is the rapture of the Church of God, which is
in Christ, at His return.
We believe that the only means of being cleansed from sin, is through repentance and
faith in the precious blood of Jesus Christ.
We believe that regeneration by the Holy Ghost is absolutely essential for personal
salvation.
We believe that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing for the
human body in answer to believing prayer.
We believe that the baptism in the Holy Ghost, according to Acts 2:4, is given to
believers who ask for it.
We believe in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling, the
christian is enabled to live a holy and separated life in this present world. Amen.

THE SELECTION *The New York Eastern First Jurisdictional Choir*

THE TRIBUTES (3 Minutes)

The Acknowledgement of Visiting Clergy and Guest
The Board of Bishops *The Bishop L. T. Walker*
Chairman
The General Assembly *The Bishop Frank Ellis*
Chairman
The General Church *The Bishop W. W. Hamilton*
General Secretary
The General Board *The Bishop P. A. Brooks*
Secretary

THE SELECTION *The New York Eastern First Jurisdictional Choir*

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

THE SERMONIC HYMN *The Choir and Congregation*
"Amazing Grace"

THE EULOGY *The Most Reverend Chandler David Owens*
Church of God in Christ
Presiding Bishop

*THE RECESSIONAL

Assisting Officials
Members of the General Board

The Bishop J. Neaul Haynes
First Assistant Presiding Bishop
The Bishop Ozro Thurston Jones, Jr.
Second Assistant Presiding Bishop
The Bishop Cleveland Landis Anderson
Assistant Presiding Bishop Emeritus
The Bishop Phillip Aquilla Brooks
Secretary
The Bishop Samuel L. Green
Assistant Secretary
The Bishop LeRoy Anderson
The Bishop Charles Edward Blake
The Bishop Levi E. Willis, Sr.
The Bishop Roy Lawrence Hailey Winbush
The Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson

ENTOMBMENT

Pinelawn Memorial Park
Pinelawn, New York

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:

Barrett Funeral Home
Brooklyn, New York

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Family of the late Bishop Ithiel Conrad Clemmons
wishes to express their thanks for every act of kindness
expressed during their time of loss.

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

The Board of Bishops
Church of God in Christ

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Superintendents, Pastors, and Elders
New York Eastern First Jurisdiction

-OBITUARY-

Seldom in human history does a man or woman rise to the pinnacle of achievement in so many areas of life as did BISHOP ITHIEL CONRAD CLEMMONS. The legacy left by his life represents an abiding treasure.

The earthen vessel that housed his life began with his birth December 2, 1921 as the third of seven children, the offspring of Bishop Frank and Pauline Clemmons, in Washington, North Carolina. In the wisdom of Almighty God, this vessel was irreparably broken with his death, Saturday, January 9, 1999.

In preparation for life and ministry Bishop Clemmons prepared himself in three distinct areas: educationally, personally, and spiritually.

Educationally, Bishop Clemmons was ranked among scholars receiving a Master of Arts in Education from City College of New York in 1952; a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary, N.Y.C. in 1956; a D.Min from New York Theological Seminary and Doctor of Divinity from Interdenominational Theological Center in 1991.

Personally, he was united in holy matrimony in 1953 to Alyce Wilmer Thompson. To this union three daughters were born. This union ended at her demise in 1968. At the time of his death he was married to Clara Cantrell, a constant companion, partner and soulmate for almost 30 years.

Spiritually, he accepted Christ at an early age and committed himself to the church and its ministries. He was guided and directed by such gospel giants as: our Founder, Bishop C. H. Mason, who prayed for and anointed him, Bishop S. M. Crouch, Bishop O. M. Kelly, Bishop F. D. Washington and Bishop O. T. Jones, Sr.

He began his pastoral ministry at the Gethsemane Church of God in Christ, Clairton, Pennsylvania in 1955. In 1966 he became co-pastor of the First Church of God in Christ, Brooklyn, New York. In 1988 he assumed full pastoral charge. In 1975 he was appointed pastor of Wells Memorial Church of God in Christ, Greensboro, North Carolina. Under his leadership 3½ acres were purchased in university center and COGIC Cathedral was built in 1985 at a cost of 1.2 million.

Bishop Clemmons served the national church faithfully to the end: 1968-1992 National Prayer Leader, 1978-1998 Women's International Convention Morning Preacher, and 1986 founded National Prayer Clinic. He was renowned as church historian, writer and author. He also served the extended church as Past President and member, executive committee member, Pentecostal Charismatic Churches of North America, member, Planning Committee North America renewal Service Committee and City of New York Council of Churches.

In May 1975 he was consecrated to episcopacy as an auxiliary Bishop and appointed to serve over the Armed Forces. In 1988, he was elevated to serve as a jurisdictional bishop and appointed prelate, of the New York Eastern First Jurisdiction by the late Bishop J. O. Patterson, Sr. In November 1991 he was elected to the General Board.

The final chapter in the Book of Life for Bishop Ithiel Clemmons has been completed. A gospel preacher, civic and community leader, he dedicated his life to the ministry through prayer, service, and commitment. He leaves to rejoice in his memory, a devoted wife, Mother Clara Clemmons, three daughters, Pamela (Samuel) Rosborough, Constance (Tyrone) Benton and Debra Clemmons; brothers, Maxwell P. Clemmons and Dr. Joseph (Fran) Clemmons, Sr.; brother-in-law, Cleveland Little; sister-in-law; Mother Etta Cantrell; grandchildren, Samona, Miriam, Jonathan, Timothy Rosborough and Joshua Benton; nieces, nephews, and James Carter who served Bishop as a son; the First Church of God in Christ family, the Wells Memorial Church of God in Christ family, the New York Eastern First Jurisdiction, and the entire Church of God in Christ whose lives are richer because he lived. The vessel may be broken but the treasure yet abides.

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Just a Little While

E. M. B. Copyright, 1921, by E. M. Bartlett. Stamps-Baxter Music and Ptg. Co., owners E. M. Bartlett

THE NATIONAL HOMEGOING CELEBRATION

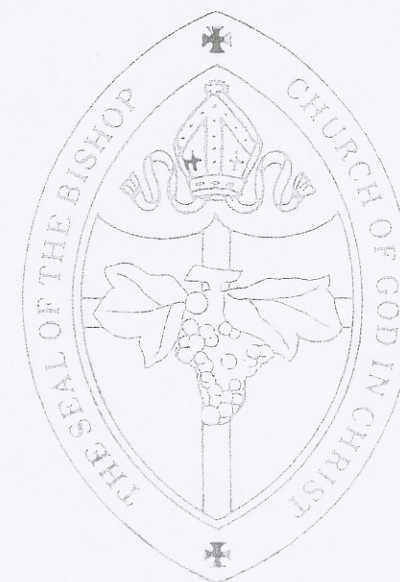
for

The Right Reverend Ithiel Conrad Clemmons

Church of God in Christ

Member, General Board

Prelate, New York Eastern First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction



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anno Domini

First Church of God in Christ
221 Kingston Avenue
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His Grace, THE MOST REVEREND CHANDLER DAVID OWENS

Church of God in Christ

Presiding Bishop

Chief Officiant

Just a Little While

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1. Soon this life will all be o - ver And all pil - grim - age will end, Soon we'll
2. Soon we'll see the light of morn - ing, Then the new day will be - gin, Soon we'll
3. Soon we'll meet a - gain our loved ones And we'll take them by the hand, Soon we'll

take our heav'n - ly jour - ney, Be at home a - gain with friends; Heav - en's gates are
hear the Fa - ther call - ing, "Come, my chil - dren en - ter in;" Then we'll hear a
press them to our bos - om O - ver in the prom - ised land; Then we'll be at

stand - ing o - pen, Wait - ing for our entrance there, Some sweet day we're go - ing
choir of an - gels, Sing - ing out the vic - t'ry song, All our trou - bles will be
home for - ev - er, Thru - out all e - ter - ni - ty, What a bless - ed, bless - ed

CHORUS

o - ver, All the beau - ties there to share. Just a lit - tle while to
end - ed, And we'll live with heav - en's throng.
morn - ing, That e - ter - nal morn will be! Just a lit - tle more of

stay here, Just a lit - tle while to wait, Just a lit - tle while to
stay here, stay here, to wait,
trou - ble In this low and sin - ful state; Omit
trou - ble, trou - ble sin - ful state;

la - bor In the path that's al - ways straight,
la - bor, la - bor, that's al - ways straight and nar - row,

Then we'll en - ter heav - en's por - tals, Sweep - ing thru the pearl - y gates.
por - tals, por - tals, pearl - y gates.